

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia
SUBJECT	Soviet Officers in Czechoslovakia

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1. Considerable numbers of Soviet officers have been observed in Prague. It is assumed that they are attached to the Soviet Military Attache, the Czech Ministry of National Defense, or units under the ministry. Both the Ministry of National Defense and the General Staff are located in Prague XIX, and Soviet officers have been seen entering the General Staff building.
2. Although a few Russian emigres and Soviet Embassy employees have always lived in the XIX-Bubenec section of Prague, an unusual number of Russian-speaking civilians have recently been seen in that part of the city. It is assumed from their appearance and behavior that they are Soviet officers. New arrivals are billeted in houses near the villa of Minister Vaclav Nosek on Roosevelt Street near Stronovka Park. Most of the houses in this area have been occupied by the Russians since 1945.
3. Residents of other villas in Prague XIX, especially those in the districts of Hanspaulka and Orechovka, are now being evacuated. In several instances the owners have been arrested and have been released only upon condition that they vacate their homes by a specified date. No official announcement concerning the disposition of these buildings has been made, but it is popularly believed that they will be occupied by new contingents of Soviet officers. The requisitioning of private garages was also begun in August 1950.
4. Some of the villas in Lochotin, a suburb of Pilsen, are being requisitioned for Soviet officers who are expected to arrive there in the near future. The inhabitants were ordered to vacate their homes within three days. It has also been reported that the villa district of Pilsen is being evacuated for the use of Soviet officers.
5. Since August 1950 three Soviet officers have been stationed at the garrison at Susice. One of them is a colonel who lives in a villa; the other two officers live in an army house in Susice but they are also to be moved to villas. The function of these officers is not known but they have been seen visiting the garrisons at Kasperske Hory and Rejstejn.
6. At the beginning of September 1950, the inhabitants of some of the villas in Susice were ordered to vacate their homes, leaving all furniture and

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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equipment except for personal clothing and cooking utensils. These villas are intended to be used by Soviet officers. A Soviet colonel was living in the Hotel Fialka. The door to his room was under constant guard by men who wore civilian clothing and appeared to be SUB members.

7. In early September 1950, a group of Soviet officers inspected the antitank obstacles in the vicinity of Domazlice and Tachov.
8. During the first half of September 1950, members of the Czech General Staff met in Brno with Soviet officers dressed as civilians and headed by a Soviet general. The Brno city billeting office has ordered the vacating of several villas on Lipova Street in the Masarykova quarter, which is the best section in town and in which the army staff and the NKVD were billeted in 1945. Even one of the leading Communists, JUDr. Blazke, was required to vacate his villa within a period of 10 days. When he protested, he was told that Soviet officers were to occupy his property. It is reported that an LVD unit is already stationed in Brno. All retired Czech army officers in Brno have been advised to move to the country or border areas because there is an apartment shortage.
9. At Nove Mesto nad Vahom, 15 villas have been vacated, and the owners were told that their villas were to be occupied by Soviet officers.
10. At Trencin some casernes are being evacuated and made ready for Soviet occupation.
11. In August 1950, a group of Soviet officers, accompanied by Slovaks who were probably Communist Party officials, stayed at the Hotel Carlton.

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